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Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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Decisions adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at its 2016 sessions

Contents

Decision number	*Title*	*Page*
Annual Session: 27-28 June 2016		
2016/1	Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on progress made on the strategic plan, 2014-2017, including the midterm review of the strategic plan	2
2016/2	Report on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2015	3
2016/3	Report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015	4
Second Regular Session: 1-2 September 2016		
2016/4	Report on Structured Dialogue on Financing: UN-Women's funding overview, gaps and financing strategy	5

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Decisions

2016/1
Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on progress made on the strategic plan, 2014-2017, including the midterm review of the strategic plan

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on progress made on the strategic plan, 2014-2017, including the midterm review of the strategic plan, welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the strategic plan, and commends UN-Women on its strong performance to date;

2. *Recognizes* the contribution made by the fulfilment of the strategic plan, 2014-2017, to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and acknowledges the central role of UN-Women in supporting Member States, upon their request, in their implementation;

3. *Commends* UN-Women on effectively leveraging its mandate as a composite entity in assisting Member States, upon their request, and in ensuring coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work; recognizes that UN-Women's support functions have increased; and reaffirms the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women and on gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system;

4. *Requests* that UN-Women improves its programmatic focus and strengthens its programme delivery and normative-operational linkages through multi-stakeholder partnerships, in particular within the Flagship Programming Initiatives and through synergies with the Fund for Gender Equality and the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women;

5. *Takes note* of the revised development results framework and organizational effectiveness and efficiency framework, contained in Annex II of the report, and notes with appreciation UN-Women's efforts in this regard;

6. *Takes note* of the financing strategy contained in the report and requests UN-Women to continue to improve its funding model, staffing structure and business processes in accordance with its regional architecture, in order to ensure the Entity's operational efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability;

7. *Takes note* with interest of the strategic initiatives contained in the report, including the Flagship Programming Initiatives contained in Annex VII of the report; requests UN-Women to inform on the results of their

implementation in the context of the annual reporting on the strategic plan, 2014-2017, in 2017 and 2018; and encourages UN-Women to partner as appropriate with relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders in their implementation;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening the capacity of UN-Women, including through adequate funding, noting the ongoing funding gap in regular resources, and encourages countries in a position to do so to increase their voluntary contributions, especially to regular resources, to ensure the full and effective implementation of the strategic plan, 2014-2017;

9. *Takes note* of the information on cost recovery contained in the report and urges UN-Women and its contributors to fully adhere to the cost recovery policy by the Executive Board decision 2013/2, including the recovery of indirect costs andcharging direct costs arising from the ,implementation of projects and programmes funded from other resources and requests UN-Women to follow up, during the second regular session of 2016 of the Executive Board, on the joint UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP and UN-Women independent review of the cost recovery methodology, as agreed in decision 2013/2;

10. *Requests* UN-Women, in accordance with its mandate, to start early preparations for the next strategic plan, in full consultation with the Executive Board, while taking into account gender mainstreaming throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, other intergovernmentally agreed outcomes, the outcome of the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system, and the findings and lessons learned from the midterm review; and further requests UN-Women to present a road map at the 2016 second regular session of the Executive Board for the consultations planned for the preparation of the next strategic plan;

11. *Decides* to transmit the report to the Economic and Social Council.

28 July 2016

2016/2
Report on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2015

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2015 and the programme of work and budget for 2016 of the Independent Evaluation Office;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts made by UN-Women and the progress achieved in systematic strengthening of the evaluation function and in leading system-wide gender-responsive evaluation efforts;

3. *Emphasizes* that evaluation should be country-driven and that programme countries' ownership and leadership should be ensured in the evaluation of all forms of assistance, and requests UN-Women, in cooperation

with other United Nations system organizations, to continue its efforts to facilitate the building of national evaluation capacities, where applicable;

4. *Requests* UN-Women to enhance the coverage of evaluations, the implementation rate of planned evaluations, the financial resources invested in the evaluation function and the submission of management responses to the Global Accountability and Tracking of Evaluation Use System and to use evaluation recommendations in its work;

5. *Requests* UN-Women to continue its gender-responsive evaluations of country programmes in order to improve programming at the country level;

6. *Requests* UN-Women, in particular the Independent Evaluation Office, to continue leading United Nations system-wide gender-responsive evaluation efforts and to foster innovative partnerships for national evaluation capacity development;

7. *Requests* UN-Women, in particular the Independent Evaluation Office, to make further efforts to meet the requirements of the Evaluation Performance Indicator of the UN-SWAP on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;

8. *Requests* UN-Women to carry out a review of the evaluation policy in three years.

28 July 2016

2016/3
Report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015;

2. *Takes note* of the inclusion, as requested by Executive Board decision 2015/4 para 3a, of an audit opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of UN-Women's framework of governance, risk management and controls in the Annual Report of the Office of Audit and Investigations, and notes with appreciation the general satisfactory ratings in this regard;

3. *Expresses* its continuing support for the audit and investigation functions within UN-Women and requests UN-Women to include appropriate resourcing plans for increased audit and investigation coverage in the next budget to be presented to the Executive Board, for 2018-2019, to ensure that it is appropriate, sufficient and effectively deployed to achieve the desired internal audit and investigation coverage;

4. *Notes* several areas of recurring weakness, including the high number of audit recommendations that were corporate in nature, appreciates the information provided by UN-Women on the efforts to address these, and urges UN-Women to continue and intensify efforts in this regard, and to provide information on the impact of measures taken;

5. *Requests* UN-Women to provide a list of investigated cases, including information on the cases and UN-Women's follow-up, as part of the next annual reporting on the internal audit and investigation activities;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Audit Advisory Committee for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015.

28 July 2016

2016/4
Report on Structured Dialogue on Financing: UN-Women's funding overview, gaps and financing strategy

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report on Structured Dialogue on Financing: UN-Women's funding overview, gaps and financing strategy, and appreciates UN-Women's engagement in this structured dialogue with Member States, with a view to tracking, assessing and following up on the level of funding it receives, including of core resources, as well as the predictability, flexibility and alignment of resources provided for the implementation of the strategic plan 2014-2017;

2. *Recognizes* that the demand for UN-Women's support is substantial and that UN-Women's support functions have increased;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of UN-Women being provided with predictable, flexible, quality and timely resources and notes the need to address the funding gap in resources to enable the Entity to fully implement its strategic plan 2014-2017, and to respond to its central role in supporting Member States, upon their request, in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Notes* with appreciation the large number of contributors to UN-Women, and encourages all countries in a position to do so, to increase their voluntary contributions to UN-Women, especially to its core resources, and onwards, if possible through multi-year pledges;

5. *Requests* UN-Women to continue to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability and in this regard to continue to provide information on its program activities, within the proceedings of the Executive Board;

6. *Calls* for resources to be disbursed in a timely and predictable manner, to ensure efficient planning for the full implementation of the strategic plan 2014-2017, in line with UN-Women's available resources;

7. *Notes* with appreciation UN-Women's strategic and targeted use of core resources, in line with its strategic plan 2014-2017, to leverage an increase in resource mobilization, particularly of other resources;

8. *Takes note* with appreciation of UN-Women's continuing efforts in strengthening normative-operational linkages, United Nations system

coordination, improving programmatic focus, programme delivery and operational effectiveness to support the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment;

9. *Requests* UN-Women, in collaboration with other relevant funds and programmes, to present in accordance with the Executive Board decision 2013/2, all requested information on cost recovery to the Executive Board in time to be included for the consultations on the strategic plan 2018-2021 and the integrated budget 2018-2019 at its Annual session 2017;

10. *Requests* that UN-Women, in line with its mandate, continues to:

a) provide information on efforts to expand the donor base, including reporting on non-Member State donors and on the transaction costs of those efforts;

b) develop strategies and opportunities to expand its partnerships with the private sector, civil society organizations, philanthropic organizations, the general public, multilateral organizations, international financial institutions and global public-private partnerships in a transparent and coordinated manner, as suggested in the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector.

2 September 2016